our voice in edmonton's lesbian community

womonspace

holiday memories

december 2001

lesbian news ~ what's up? ~ resource directory

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You can find womonspace at:
B & D Emporium, Bagel Tree Cafe, Downtown Library, GLCCE, Greenwoods Books, Orlando Books, Precinct 55, Princess Theatre, The Roost, Secrets Bar & Grill, Strathcona Library, Urban Grind

womonspace is a publication of the Womonspace Social and Recreational Society of Edmonton, a non-profit volunteer organization. Our purpose is to inform and entertain our members and other interested lesbians.

The opinions expressed in *womonspace* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Womonspace Board. The events, organizations and establishments publicized are not necessarily supported by *womonspace*.

Material submitted becomes the property of *womonspace*. We reserve the right to edit for length and content, and to refuse publication. Submissions will be published on Womonspace's website, unless otherwise agreed.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Editor: Shawna L. Mochnacz
Designer: Marcey Andrews

NEXT ISSUE

January - Winter Fun
February - Erotica

We welcome submissions up to 500 words of interest to local lesbians. Letters to the editor, short fiction, articles, book or movie reviews, poetry, artwork or photographs (minimum 200 dpi files) are all welcomed.

Forward your submissions by:

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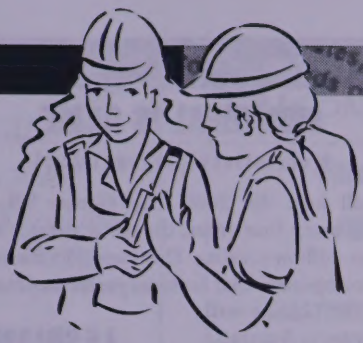

by shawna l. mochnacz

womyn at work

Everyone hates change. Change is bad. With that in mind, welcome to your new *womonspace*! With a new editor, and new designer (Marcey Andrews), there are sure to be a few things in this issue that you'll notice. There may even be a few unfortunate glitches, for which we beg your forgiveness in advance. (Hey, we're new!) But don't worry—we're also obsessive and have control issues, which should make for an excellent newsletter staff! Now more than ever is the time for you to type *womonspace@hotmail.com* into your computer and give us what we want—feedback! This publication is a reflection of your lesbian community. The other thing we need from you—submissions! In any form. (Not your underwear, we can't print that.)

I'd like to thank Suzanne Dawson for the hours of guidance and assistance (and cat hair) she has provided to ensure the newsletter continues to run smoothly! Best wishes as well to Gloria Arndt, who continued to design the newsletter despite her health problems. Both of these women are strong examples to the community, and through my experiences on the newsletter this month, greatly admired.

Who are we? Marcey Andrews is a senior designer and art director for an educational publishing company. She brings with her eight years of experience in editorial and graphic design. She's thrilled with the opportunity to carry on the torch of the *womonspace* designers who came before her.

Shawna

Marcey

I bring with me nine months of experience as the Arts & Entertainment Editor from Winnipeg's queer newsmagazine *Swerve* (distribution 6000). For my day job, I am a classically trained clarinettist currently serving with the Canadian Forces' Royal Canadian Artillery Band here in town.

So, with that, I hope you enjoy this issue. What better month to introduce some changes than December—a month of partying, getting presents, and eating great food. Enjoy a safe holiday season and see you in the new year!▼

"Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine." (a bumper sticker seen on 104 Ave.)

news

MONTREAL IS GAME

(federationofgaygames.com)

Montreal will host the 2006 Gay Games VII—Sports and Cultural Festival. Held every four years, the event attracts around 15 000 athletes and a quarter million tourists. There are 31 official sports, in addition to the cultural component that features performances by international stars. The 2002 Gay Games will be held in Sydney, Australia during November next year.

photo by Kevin Mazur/WireImage.com

k.d. CLEARLY TONY'S FAVE

(CP)

k.d. lang guests on Tony Bennett's newest release Playin' With My Friends—Bennett Sings the Blues. Released in November, the album pairs Bennett up with the likes of Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Diana Krall, and lang, to name a few. But it's k.d. lang who clearly holds a unique place in his heart. "We just have a love affair going, completely, " he says. "I've worked all over the US with her this year, and she's the most spirited and gifted artist. I'd be listening and just shaking my head because she's hitting all the right notes with the emotion and feeling that moves an audience."

news continues

news continues on page 16 . . .

LESBIAN FRESCOES!

(lesbianews.com)

Despite objections from the Roman Catholic Church, visitors to the ancient Roman city of Pompeii are able to see a series of erotic lesbian frescoes that were buried under volcanic ash 2000 years ago. The art was discovered in the 1950s and has been undergoing restoration ever since. Archaeologists discovered it when they stumbled onto an underground "pleasure spa." The seven paintings depict an assortment of explicit sexual activity, including the only female homosexual scenes on display in the city.

letters to the editor

Praise for October's Dance

Dear womonspace,
Just a quick note to pass on my thank you for the fine selection of music at the Oct 20 womonspace dance. I enjoyed the variety of music and appreciated the fact that one could also carry on a conversation while others danced. Thanks to the DJ - I'm already looking forward to the next dance.

—L.S.

Dear womonspace,
I wanted to write and tell you how good the last dance was. I haven't been since last April or so and it was very good. The music was great and the idea of the food catered was a nice touch. I will be back.....Great job. Thanks for all your hard work.

—Pam McEwin

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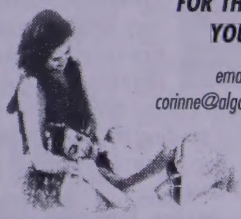

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Thursdays: Karaoke
Fridays: Licorice Whip Music Sports (Where you name that tune!)/DJ
Saturdays: Country Dancin' & Karaoke
Sundays: Smorg & Jam session

Book now for New Year's Eve!

Maxine Moore, Manager
5552 Calgary Trail S
432-5550

by ginette gibeault

Review

The Truth Is...
My Life in Love and Music
by Melissa Etheridge with Laura Morton

If you're curious about Melissa Etheridge, you're bound to love this book. It kept me enthralled from first page to last. Etheridge writes very candidly and bravely, telling intimate tales about her experiences, thoughts and emotions. After reading the book I felt that I knew her quite as well as I would a good friend.

As the title implies, Etheridge gives the curious what they most want, which is details on her love life and her music. She starts with the story of her bleak and disturbing childhood in Leavenworth, the pain of which is only alleviated by her increasing involvement in performing and song-writing. She gradually realizes she is gay and loses her innocence in the big city. From there Etheridge takes us on her turbulent journey through her love relationships and her rise to fame as a rock musician. There are some particularly interesting parts where Etheridge describes her life with Julie Cypher, her long-time lover. The relationship is rocky from very early on, with Julie telling Melissa that she is very attracted to k.d. lang, and insisting that she would like to sleep with her. Melissa agrees, and the deed is done, understandably causing quite some insecurity on Melissa's part. (I wish I had a girlfriend that would let me sleep with k.d. lang!)

Etheridge's love and music are all connected. Song lyrics are interspersed throughout the book, with her own interpretations and explanations of what events lead her to write these particular songs. There are pictures too, from her own private collection. The entire package is very satisfying. This is an absorbing story about Melissa Etheridge's emotional development and journey to better self-knowledge.▼

Preview

The Girl
Presented by Metro Cinema
At Zeidler Hall of the Citadel Theatre 9828 - 101 A Avenue
December 9th and 10th at 7 PM and 9 PM nightly
Cast: Claire Keim, Agathe de la Boulaye.

Fashioning a new movie genre "Lesbian Noir," director Sande Zeig's film tells the story of a beautiful painter who frequents a Paris nightclub where she suffers an increasing obsession with the resident singer—simply referred to as The Girl. One night, a strange looking man, who seems to know the singer, appears in the club. At first The Painter observes him from a distance, but gradually she begins following him, sensing that he is a threat to her lover. Critics of the film are sharply divided in their opinions—some calling the film a pretentious exercise, others praising The Girl for its rich, dark, eroticism.

Admission: $5 members, $7 new members ~ Seniors/Students: $4 members, $6 new members
Call Metro Cinema 425-9212 for more info.

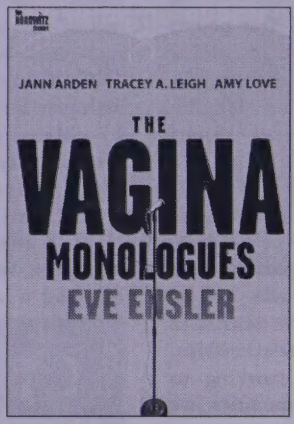
by k. parker

Review

The Vagina Monologues

with Jann Arden, Tracey A. Leigh, and Amy Love

The national tour of playwright Eve Ensler's pussy manifesto graced our 'fair city', as it was referred to, from November sixth to November eleventh. My good fortune allowed me to attend the final sold out showing. This time around the cast included lovely Canuck cynic, Jann Arden, as well as Tracey A. Leigh and Amy Love. The stage was simple; 3 chairs, 3 microphones, and 3 small tables. To start the show the audience was plunged into pitch blackness, and Amy Love's voice floated out into the darkness, "I bet you're worried". Frankly, sitting in that theater, completely void of light, I was worried. Then the spotlights shone on the performers and elation overtook me and the rest of the frantically applauding audience. I immediately noticed that all of the actresses were barefoot and had their hair down—it was a sign of things to come.



After a brief introduction explaining why and how the monologues came to be, the magic began. It was like a seance, exciting and riveting. Through the transmutations of the women on the stage, we met an awe inspiring array of personalities. Women from different generations, classes, and geographical locations told their stories. These vagina chronicles elicited a surprising range of emotions in me from riotous laughter to burning rage, quiet sadness to startling lust. Yes, there were two monologues about women who love other women's vaginas. Actively and loudly at times.

The highlight of the evening had to be the audience chorus of the word 'cunt' led by Jann Arden. It was priceless. Overall the Vagina Monologues was entertaining and empowering. Part of the ticket price went to the V-Day movement which contributes funds to help end violence against women, thereby satisfying everyone's inner philanthropist. (For more info go to www.vday.org). Unlike many "women-centered" events (which have left me feeling disenfranchised and invisible as a lesbian woman) The Vagina Monologues left me proud to be a women and a dyke! This could be the beginning of a new kind of inclusive, vagina-centered world movement. And I haven't had that kind of fun since...well, never mind!▼

If you missed The VM, catch them in Winnipeg (4-9 Dec), Ottawa (18-23 Dec), Saskatoon (27-30 Dec).
Info: www.vaginamonologues.com

Ms. Ensler's best-selling book, also entitled *The Vagina Monologues*, has been published by Villard Books. Her new book, Points of Reentry, will be published by Villard in 2001. The 1999 recipient of the Guggenheim Grant in Playwriting, Ms. Ensler is currently writing a screenplay on women in prison for Glenn Close.

the "elle" in glcce

by kristy harcourt

As the winter holidays approach, at GLCCE we know we'll see an increase in the number of requests for our peer counseling. Our other peak time of the year is June, when the mainstream attention to gay pride celebrations puts our lives on the public agenda. This visibility seems to get people talking about their issues related to coming out and visibility. My sense is that the calls in December come for the opposite reason – that people are often dealing with their invisibility while surrounded by commercials, movies and stories about families embracing one another and coming together.

Lesbian and bisexual women's relationships with our families of origin are vastly diverse. Some of us have always been close to parents and siblings, others have little or no contact, and still others have worked to build or rebuild careful relationships. In many cases, we are working to define families and communities we hadn't imagined prior to coming out.

We celebrate the holidays with remnants of the traditions observed in our childhoods, and supplement them with new traditions that reflect our adult lives and loves.

Over the past few years, new holiday traditions have sprung up at GLCCE. In early December, we invite the youth who use the centre to decorate it, using their imagination to create ornaments and decorations that reflect the breadth of groups and individuals who also use the centre.

On Christmas day, the centre offers an open house and meal (supported by Men Talking Together and Womonspace). The dinner is a chance for all kinds of people to stop by, check in, and share community together.

We'd love to have people visit and check out the decorations, or share a bite and a visit on Christmas day. If someone you know needs some extra support, or a listening ear during the holidays this year, please pass on our information. See you at the centre!▼

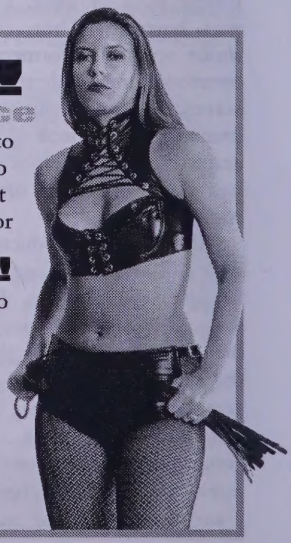
SUBMIT!
to womonspace

Are you the kind of person that likes being told what to do? Do you want to submit, but don't know what to write? We have all kinds of assignments for you at womonspace if you can't think of anything to write for the Feature Theme!

Contact womonspace@hotmail.com **NOW!**

We welcome submissions up to 500 words of interest to local lesbians: letters to the editor, short fiction, articles, book and movie reviews, poetry, artwork, and photographs. Reminder: do not send your underwear. Snail mail: womonspace Editor, Box 128 Main P.O., Edmonton, AB, T5J 3J4.

Feature Themes: January: Winter Fun (deadline Dec 10th)
February: Erotica (deadline Jan 15th)



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homoscopes

by the Amazing Saltini

sagittarius nov22 - dec21

You like excitement! But what are you really made of? It seems that you have won an admirer, and they're trying to figure out who they're admiring. Seek out someone whose mere presence recharges your batteries. Right now, a window is opening. In addition to meeting a sexy stranger from abroad, you will encounter delightful imports and air-travel discounts. Make sure your passport is up to date!

capricorn dec22 - jan19

Your unconventional courting techniques can create something mystical—as long as you don't kiss and tell. Ask yourself if you're ready for a more serious commitment.

aquarius jan20 - feb18

Treat yourself to a new dream. Leave behind your erratic behavior. That deafening silence coming from the other person might not be a bad thing. She's aching to teach you a few romantic tricks.

pisces feb19 - mar20

The goddess of your dreams could be sitting right next to you. Grab her hand, lose your inhibitions and indulge your fantasies for a while. You're never too old for some intense necking!

aries mar21 - apr19

Does it feel like everyone wants to follow in your footsteps? The universe may give you a gift that could freak you out. You're in for some heat and excitement! Casual flirtation happens for a reason—let your intuition guide you.

taurus apr20 - may20

When Taurus turns on the charm, you radiate a glow in which everyone wants to bask. Many are interested, but try to be humble.

gemini may21 - jun21

It seems you've changed so suddenly in some ways that loved ones are wondering if you've been replaced by an alien. Make sure what you're trying to get is what you really want.

cancer jun22 - jul22

Consider the outcome before yielding to temptation. Help someone who may be going through this for the first time. You just might relearn an old lesson with a new twist!

leo jul23 - aug22

All the tension is about to dissolve. The one you have been laboring to win over may not have been quite up front, because she was unsure of how you would react.

virgo aug23 - sep22

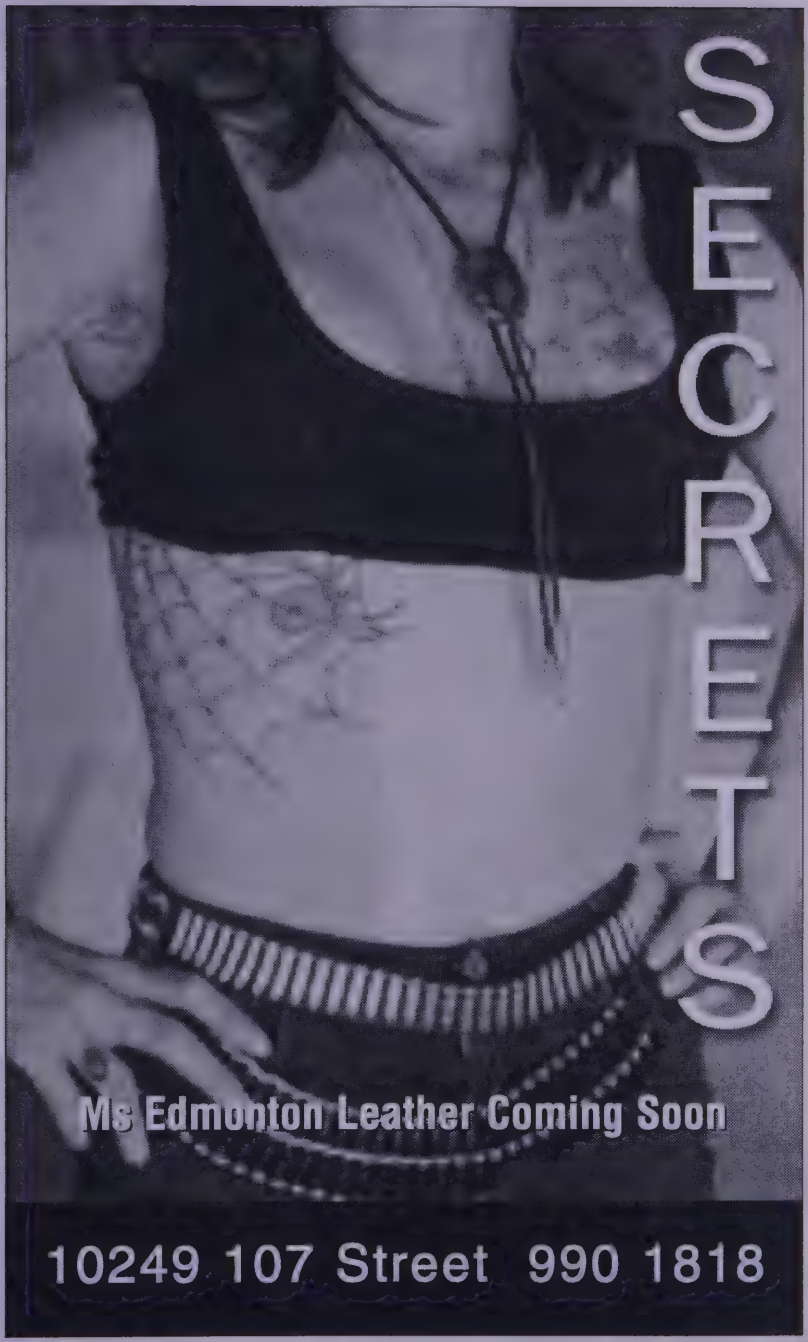
Someone is intrigued, titillated, aroused and enchanted by the magical energy that flows out of your every pore. The trick is to let things happen on their own. Look forward to a cozy holiday season!

libra sep23 - oct23

Even if you cannot be with the person you've been dreaming about, you can spend some time with someone who's been dreaming about you. Offer tissues to cuties.

scorpio oct24 - nov21

You suddenly develop an interest for someone far different from your usual type. If you want to reap richer rewards when it comes to love, you're going to have to start taking more risks.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holiday Vignettes

by your friendly neighbourhood womonspace board

Rae Johnson

We had moved to a smaller town in Saskatchewan and my mother's parents had come to our house for Christmas. My Gramps was a very quiet man who did not believe in wasting words, and rarely had a whole lot to talk about with a tyke. I was a bit timid around him because he did not talk much (but he sure could teach you anything about cards!). Anyone who has been around my family (and there are some of you out there reading this) knows how we love to talk and laugh. Anyway, back to the story. We have many traditions around our house at Christmas time, and one of them is: How One Must Open One's Gifts. I have known this one since I was old enough to realize what Christmas was about, and I try to instill it in those I am with now. When you are given a gift to open, you must shake, squeeze, sniff and then make an honest guess at what it is. If you do not try in earnest, then you can not open it until you do. (We are not overly-hard on the newly initiated.) Once you have made a GOOD guess, you can open it. You have to show everyone what you've received, so that we can all see how good a guesser you really are. I was about 3 years old the year that Gramps was at our house, and I knew the drill. My Gramps had his own way

Rae Johnson, President, with her dolly and Etch-A-Sketch, circa, er, well, they had cameras!

of doing things, which was just wrong to me, because I knew the right way! He would get his gift, pull his little jack knife out of his pocket, carefully slice the tape, put his knife away, remove the wrapping, fold it carefully, seek a peek into his package and then hide it away behind his chair. He never made a guess, and no one ever saw what he received! When you are three, this is unbearable! So, after watching this for the fourth or fifth time, I marched up to him and told him he was doing everything wrong. I took his package from his hands, shook it, made his guess, ripped the wrapping off and

took it to show everyone. When I was finished, I took it back to him and told him that was the way it was supposed to be done. Poor old Gramps smiled at me, took his gift, put it behind his chair and never changed. I guess grandfathers can have their own traditions, even if they are not the same as everyone else's. When Gramps passed away I was seventeen and out traveling for the year, so I couldn't make it home for his memorial. When I came home, my Gram had a few of his things set aside for me—an old war medal and of course, the one thing that was so much my Gramps, his pocketknife to open gifts at Christmas. I use it to open my packages now but I still shake, squeeze and sniff before I do, and I don't hide things behind my chair. Some traditions can bend a little as long as all of us in the room remember where they were started and the people who started them.▼

Lorry Schulz

Lorry Schulz, Vice-President, ready for multiple holidays!

I have lived most of my life in Edmonton. As I child, I thought I was so lucky because I celebrated, in essence, three Christmases. We celebrated with my Mother's family on the 24th (as they are from Germany), with my immediate family on the 25th, and with my father's family in January, as his parents are Ukrainian. Needless to say, heavy duty dieting is required afterwards!▼

Cherie Klassen

Cherie Klassen, Public Relations Director, with Mayan man in Guatemala, Feb 2001

One particularly memorable Christmas I had was about 5 years ago, when my sister and her family decided to leave the country for the holidays. I was stuck facing the prospect of Christmas alone with my parents in the happening town of Stettler (without my nephews to detract attention from me). We weren't getting along terribly well at the time, so I decided to make the trip as short as possible and headed down to greet Grandma and the fam just for the day. By 11 AM my mother was on to something, so I poured myself a generous Bailey's "in the spirit of the season." This was promptly followed by her question "drinking in the morning...are you an alcoholic?". By 2 PM she was wondering aloud if I would ever catch a nice young man—and shouldn't I grow my hair out too?! This eventually led to "Are you a lesbian?", articulated with baited breath. This, I deemed, was blackmail. Christmas Day of all days! Do I address this on a day she would mark forever? I knew the answer she was waiting for. I chose to deflect the question for the moment, and did the next best thing...I came out to her on Mother's Day that year! P.S. We're all feeling much better now!▼

Sally Cooper, Membership Director, avoiding winter in her two-piece! Circa, well, at least her picture was in colour, Rae!

Carol Cattell

Carol Cattell, Treasurer, warm inside her house!

Most of the time I have mixed emotions about holidays, especially Christmas. I come from a small family of only one sister—my parents passed on quite a few years ago. My sister lives in Toronto with her 20 year old son, which leads to our dilemma. Which city and family do I spend Christmas with?! Most of the time I end up making the decision to go to Toronto to spend a quiet holiday season with my sister and nephew. When I spend Christmas in Edmonton, it is so different. My partner Louise's family is quite large, and they have a big gathering of at least 25 people. They all get along very well, and it is a nice way to spend Christmas Day (though, even after 14 years I have a hard time getting use to all those people.) Since I moved here six years ago we try and convince my sister and nephew to come to Edmonton for Christmas. We have only been successful once. They visited for Christmas '96. It was so cold that week that they would barely go out! We drove down Candy Cane Lane, and occasionally got out of the van to check out an igloo or someone's front yard display. We had planned to go to Banff on boxing day, but the weather conditions were so bad that we had to cancel our trip. Needless to say, I have not been able to convince them to visit Edmonton in the winter ever since—but I keep trying! I spent Christmas in Toronto last year, so this year I am going to enjoy an Edmonton Christmas. One of the highlights for me has always been Candy Cane Lane and visiting with our friends.▼

Kelly Gray

Kelly Gray, Secretary. Her babies, Shylo and Earl, wreaking havoc on a nativity scene!

My favorite Christmas time thing is to be in the kitchen making some sort of cookie, or appetizer, or whole big dinner thing. I like to sit down in the morning and plan what I am going to make that day, or what the menu is going to be for Christmas day. Yes! I have already started to plan and prepare for Christmas dinner, and I even have my grocery shopping done already. (Ed note: Kelly wrote this on Nov 13th!) I enjoy it when everyone sits down, relaxes and fully enjoys themselves. I am also still a big kid at heart, and my other favorite thing to

do is have someone near and dear drag me out of bed at 5 AM Christmas morning to open stockings, eat oranges and see what Santa left under the tree! (Well, sometimes that can be a special surprise left by our little dog, if he has found a box of chocolates under the tree before we did!) Last year, one of the most memorable things that we did was take pictures of our dogs in a Christmas scene. It only took us 4 hours for 4 pictures, but it was definitely memorable!▼

Jacqui Grobler

Jacqui Grobler, Activities Director, Feliz Navidading!

Although I've traveled quite a bit, the one place I haven't been is Mexico. Might make for a great Christmas holiday though...hint, hint!▼

Z-Starr, Volunteer Coordinator, is willing to steal your Christmas!

Z-Starr

I must say that Christmas time is never a pleasant experience for those of us with no family. My favorite memory, though, would be the one I spent in Las Vegas. It was very quiet and all of the people I met were very kind. The rates were the best I ever received and the entertainment was definitely more personal. It is a place I would definitely choose again to spend Christmas.▼

Shawna Mochnacz, Newsletter Editor, age 6, convincing Santa she's been good!

Shawna Mochnacz

My fondest holiday memory is from age 10. Mom is baking shortbread and it's snowing those big, fat, slow snowflakes. I'm on the living room carpet, colouring in my special Christmas colouring book, listening to my Snoopy Christmas album over and over and over again. From that, I always take an evening before Christmas to do some baking in an effort to slow things down a bit and relax. If The Sound of Music is on tv, all the better! (I've seen it sixteen times since they started showing it every December! You can never have too much Julie Andrews/ stories of unrequited love that end happily!) A close second in the fondest memory department is the first Christmas my family spent with my two Siamese (Sherekhan and Bagheera). Every single photo from Christmas morning had a little kitty romping through the gift debris. They also knocked the tree down the day before, and ate two home-made tree ornaments. Now that I think of it, I think I prefer that memory to the sappy, heartwarming one!▼

A Christmas Story

By Sharon Fernandes

Hungry, broke and tired—it was not a good combination, especially at this time of the year. She moved through the snowy streets conscious of the bitter wind cutting through her too-thin coat. Today was Christmas. She could remember what that used to mean to her. Her mind drifted back to her days as a child. She would run down the stairs early in the morning, trying to race her brothers to see who could get to the tree and the presents first. She couldn't believe that she missed Santa Claus again that year. She would have to wake up even earlier next year for sure. Her parents would finally come downstairs. Dad told her that they would only be able to open one gift before breakfast and church. She didn't know how she could possibly hold her excitement. Mom was in the kitchen making pancakes. She could hear the bacon sizzling and the smell was driving her stomach wild. The rumble from her gut brought her back into reality.

She angrily wiped at the tear that strayed from her tired eyes. She couldn't afford to dwell on the past. How was she gonna get some food in her belly? The last thing she needed right now was to cry. Cold slushy wet snow slipped into her shoes through the hole she kept meaning to fix. She didn't even know where she was going—she just needed to find something or someone. She didn't want to live this way anymore. She was freezing, lonely, desperate, hungry and tired.

She rummaged through a garbage can and tried to find something to eat. There was a pizza box close to the bottom. She sat on the ground and opened the box. Perfect. It was her favorite kind, pepperoni. She had forgotten what hot pizza tasted like it had been so long. "Hey!" She heard someone yelling at her. "Hey kid!" Someone grabbed her coat and pulled her to her feet. "What are you doing out here?" She froze to the ground, not sure what to say. "Are you okay? I can help you. Are you alone?" Finally, the girl nodded. "Why don't you come inside with me and get warmed up. It looks like you're hungry. I promise it will taste better than this old pizza." The lady smiled widely at her. The girl trusted her and decided to go with her.

She could smell a turkey dinner cooking and apple pie too. Her stomach started rumbling again. She stared at the food on the table and watched the lady move through the house. "You can go upstairs and take a warm bath and come back downstairs for some food." She just stared at her and nodded her head.

The house was beautiful and huge. She sat in the warm bath and thought

about Christmas. She hated to admit it but she needed some help. It had been so long since she even had a bath. After about an hour, she climbed out of the tub and put on the clothes the lady left out for her. They smelled so clean. She headed back down the stairs and saw the lady again. "Hi," she said shyly. The lady smiled at her and invited her to join her at the table. She looked at the big plate of food and started to devour it quickly.

She told the woman that her parents had kicked her out of the house when she came out to them 2 years ago. She went on to tell the woman everything about herself. It was strange but it felt good at the same time. The lady told her everything about herself. This was the first Christmas she was spending alone. Her partner was called out of town for work. They talked and talked for hours. They watched 'A Christmas Carol' and watched the snow fall softly into the night. The girl hoped this night would never end. The front door opened suddenly and she heard the lady squeal with delight.

"You're home!" She was hugging another lady who said, "I came home early—to hell with it! I couldn't let you spend Christmas alone." Her eyes drifted toward the young girl. "Well, I see you're not alone. Who's this?" The lady quickly explained everything as she fixed the other lady something to eat.

In the end, the ladies would let her stay with them until she got back on her feet. The ladies quietly exchanged Christmas gifts under the tree as the girl got comfortable on the couch. She watched them kissing and whispering under the tree. She felt happiness and love. The girl drifted off to sleep as she thought that this was the best Christmas she had ever had.▼

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. . . continued from page 2.

WONDER WHO THE WOMAN IS?

(gay.com)

"Buffy the Vampire Slayer's" Eliza Dushku is the latest actress rumored to be vying for the starring role in the upcoming Wonder Woman. Xena: Warrior Princess star Lucy Lawless and World Wrestling Federation wrestler Chyna are also being considered for the role, according to Entertainment Weekly. The front-runner to play the part of Wonder Woman, however, is still rumored to be Sandra Bullock, who doesn't want to interpret the role in the same way Lynda Carter did on the 1970s TV show—she absolutely refuses to don the campy, tight-fitting outfit that Carter had to wear.

ORANGE YOU GLAD I DIDN'T SAY SCREENWRITER?

(gay.com)

Lesbian author Jeanette Winterson (Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit) isn't thrilled that Miramax still plans to make a movie of her bizarre Napoleonic romance tale, *The Passion*. Apparently Winterson isn't happy about being fired from writing the screenplay, based on her award-winning book. Gwyneth Paltrow expressed interest in the project at one point, though her involvement now is unclear. Queer producer Christine Vachon (of Boys Don't Cry and Velvet Goldmine fame) has hired another writer to make sense of Winterson's draft.

If you have any news tips about Edmonton's lesbians, contact womonspace@hotmail.com

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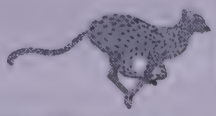

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NEXT MONTH'S FEATURE TOPIC:
WINTER FUN

Do you have fond memories of being pulled on a trike in the winter whilst wearing your new Super Slider Snowskates? (For those of you who don't know, these little babies were basically crazy carpets bent into shoe shape, and laced to your boots!) Oh yeah, it was a bad idea (I don't think they even sell them anymore), never mind being pulled behind an ATV! But it was a sure sign of winter on the prairies! Or is your idea of winter fun building a fire and experimenting with cookie recipes? Either way, write it down (500 words max), and share it with the community by submitting to womonspace:
womonspace@hotmail.com

resource directory

List your organization or event here. Call 482-1794 or womonspace@hotmail.com

arts

Circle Dance First Wednesday of the month, 7:30 PM at Southminster Steinhauer United Church 10740-19 Ave. Call Ann at 435-2288.

Edmonton Vocal Minority Mixed voice choir. join as a singer or a supporter. Call 479-2038 or evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Out at the Symphony For gay and lesbian music lovers and their friends. Call Paul at the ESO 429-1992, ext 240.

athletics

Curling League Fridays at Ottewell Curling Club. No previous experience required. Call Lance at 479-0211 or ideeka@hotmail.com

Free-to-Be Womyn's Volleyball League Mondays 7–8:45 PM at John D. Bracco School 3150-139 Ave. Cost $35/year, $3/drop-in. Call Pam at 459-9370 or p_mcewin@hotmail.com

Making Waves Swim Club Sundays 8 PM and Thursdays 8:30 PM at Bonnie Doon Pool. Tuesdays 8:30 PM at Scona Pool. Call Jan at 454-9987 or makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com

Northern Titans Ten pin bowling league. Saturdays 4:45 PM. Call Garry or Dave at 426-6311 or davegarry711@home.com

churches

Affirm United A support group for members of the United Church of Canada. Call Therese at 446-6176.

Brethren Mennonite Council For gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Call Heather at 987-4974, or email jonrach@msn.com

Dignity Edmonton For gay, lesbian and bisexual Roman Catholics and friends. Call Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218, trainlvr@compusmart.ab.ca

Lambda Christian Community Church A non-denominational, evangelical Christian church. Sundays at 7 PM at Garneau United Place, 11148-84 Ave. Call 474-0753.

Lutherans Concerned A spiritual community for GLBT and straight people gathering monthly for worship, sharing and friendship. Individual support, resources and a safe space for spiritual questions. Call 426-0905, lcedmonton@lcna.org

McDougall United Church Welcomes people of all sexual orientations. Sundays at 10:30 AM at 10086 McDonald Dr. Call 428-1818.

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church Welcomes all sexual orientations and is an affirming United Church. Sundays at 10 AM at 10740 - 19 Ave. Call the church office at 435-2028 or Debbie at 987-4974.

Unitarian Church of Edmonton Worship and services of union. Sundays at 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM at 12530-110 Ave. Call 454-8073, uce@compusmart.ab.ca

focus groups

AGAPE Sexual Orientation and Schooling Focus Group at the U of A Faculty of Education 4-110C Educ. N. Thursdays 5–6 PM. Contact Dr. Andre Grace at andre.grace@ualberta.ca or Kris Wells at wellsk@icrossroads.com

hangouts for lesbians

The Bagel Tree: 10345 Whyte Ave; **Cafe Mosaics:** 10844 Whyte Ave; **Precinct 55:** 5552 Calgary Trail S; **The Roost:** 10345-104 St; **Secrets Bar & Grill:** 10249-107 St; **Urban Grind:** 10124-124 St.

leisure groups

Breakfast Club Second Sunday of the month. Call Dianne at 433-0374 before PM the Fri before to ensure your reservation.

Classics Social group for lesbians over 40. First Sunday of the month, 2 PM at Secrets 10249-107 St. Call Sharie 475-1502.

LGBT Movie Club LGBT movies. Once or twice a month at Orlando Books. Cost $2. Call Tricia at 963-2983.

Liatris Society Gardening club for all. Call William at 474-7328 or liatrissociety@hotmail.com

National Leather Association Social evening on the second Friday of each month 8:30 PM at The Roost 10345-104 St.

Open Door Club Social club for Grant MacEwan Community College students and friends. opendoorclub@hotmail.com

OUTreach For LGBT students, staff, and faculty at U of A. Tuesdays 5 PM, Athabasca Hall. outreach@ualberta.ca

Sunday Night Coffee Group Everyone welcome to drink coffee, chat and enjoy each other's company. Second and fourth Sunday of the month 7 PM Jax Bean Stop 11511-104 Ave. Just look for the blue baseball cap. gay_edmonton_coffee@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/gay_edmonton_coffee

support services

Alcoholics Anonymous Gay and lesbian meetings. Call 424-5900.

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association Second Tuesday of the month 7:30 PM at Orlando Books. Call Bill 422-6207.

Equal=Alberta For equal treatment of all Albertans. Call 488-3234 or wqualalberta@hotmail.com

GLCCE 103 10612-124 St. Gay and Lesbian Community Center for drop-in, peer counseling and library. Monday–Friday 1:30 PM–5:30 PM, and 7–10 PM. Thursdays 7:30 PM are women's drop-in. Call 488-3234 or glcce@compusmart.ab.ca

ICARE Interfaith Center for AIDS/HIV Resources and Education. Call Mickey Wilson at 448-1768 or icare@oanet.com

Naturopath for Women Free information sessions on naturopathy with a focus on women's health. first Monday of the month 7 PM Park Allen Hall 11104-65 Ave. Call Jackie Yurko at 430-4553.

PFLAG/T Support for parents, families and friends of LGBT. Third Tuesday of the month 7:30 PM at GLCCE. Call Lynne at 462-5958 or pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Transgender/Transsexual Support GLLCE, second and fourth Tuesdays of the month 7:30 PM. Info: 488-3234.

Yours, Mine, Ours & Us Support group for LGBT parents, co-parents and partners. Call Liz at 415-5434 or Garry at 426-6311.

Youth Understanding Youth Social and support group for LGBT age 25 and under. Saturdays 7–9 PM at GLCCE or yuyedm@hotmail.com

radio

Gaywire Lesbian, gay and bisexual news, interviews and music. Thursdays 6–7 PM on CJSR 88.5 FM.

Sonic Sisters Women's music hosted by Cori Brewster Tuesdays 7–8 PM on CJSR 88.5 FM.

do you crave complete adoration and constant praise?

The womonspace newsletter is looking for an Administrative Officer. Duties include managing the advertising accounts, coordinating distribution, and assisting the editor as required. You must be extremely charming and look great in a bathing suit. (Relax!! That's a joke!) Forward your interest to womonspace@hotmail.com

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what's up in december!

December 1 World AIDS Day. Info Fair 1–5 PM, Candlelight Vigil 6 PM. Garneau United Place, 11148 - 84 Ave.

December 5th at 7:30 PM Lecture featuring Dr. Sima Samar. Tory Building, Lecture Theatre 11, University of Alberta. From the time the Taliban took over Afghanistan in 1996, Dr. Samar has been operating schools for girls and health clinics in many of the provinces of Afghanistan as well as in refugee camps in Quetta, Pakistan. Free Admission. Info: 424-7709.

December 6th at 7:30 PM Grrls Games Night/Women's Drop-in. GLCCE Bring your favorite game! Pictionary remains non-contact!

December 7th at 7:30 PM Book Reading. Orlando Books. SHANI MOOTOO reads from her new book of poems, PREDICAMENT OF OR. Shani Mootoo is the author of the celebrated novel, Cereus Blooms at Night, and the short story collection, Out on Main Street. She is this year's Writer in Residence at U of A.

December 8th at 7:15 PM Out at the Symphony. Winspear Centre. Meet at the Upper Circle Lobby before the concert Piano music of Brahms and Tchaikovsky. Call Paul at 428-1108, ext 240.

December 9th Breakfast Club at Hotel MacDonald. Info: 470-3522.

December 13th at 7 PM Community Christmas Party with EVM. The Unitarian Church of Edmonton. To help put you in the Christmas spirit, Canadiana, the Unitarian Church Choir, and EVM offer some seasonal musical treats. Enjoy a good old-fashioned carol sing-along, sample some delicious Christmas baking, enjoy good company, and relax in the supportive, friendly environment. Designed to be a family event, children are especially welcome! An alcohol and smoke-free event.

December 20th at 7:30 PM Women's Drop-in. GLCCE presents a discussion about family and community during the holidays.

December 20th, 5 PM to 7 PM The Gaywire Winter Pageant on CJSR 88.5 FM. Tune into GLBT Edmonton's favorite show for a little blast of holiday cheer. Featuring: Darrin Hagen, Maria Dunn and more!

classifieds

Classified ad deadline is 5 PM on December 10th. Three lines max. Free to members, $5 to non-members. Contact womonspace @hotmail.com

accommodations

Seashell Housekeeping Units. Down East Nova Scotia. Hospitality by Marie & Nan. June 15–Oct 15. (902) 224-1563

volunteers wanted

HIV Edmonton. Volunteers wanted, needed and loved! Deborah (780) 488-5742, ext. 241 or www.hivedmonton.com

Research volunteers (aged 18–21) for experiences as lesbians in high school. Call Michelle at 721-6163

womonspace is seeking Dance Coordinator volunteers to help organize and run the dances. Contact womonspace@hotmail.com

services

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opportunities

Canada World Youth is recruiting women 21–29 yrs for their Young Women's International Exchange with Ukraine program. Deadline for applications January 31st. For further info contact Charlene Ball at (780) 432-1877, toll free 1-877-929-6884 or www.cwy-jcm.org

Guitarist, drummer, would like to play with other musicians for fun. Contact Elizabeth at 479-4876

messages

Bee: My Goddess of Clean Laundry! Thank you!! Caffeine-crazed GF.

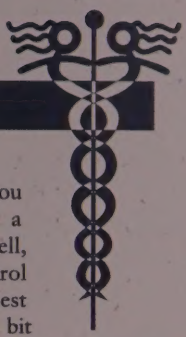
Once there was an Otter who met a Turtle in a little ocean pool.They got on famously and shared their unique experiences. The Turtle taught the Otter patience and the Otter taught the Turtle the lighter side of life. Together they manage to humour and tolerate daily life.....Glad I met you S....from...J....

personals

37-year old WF, caring , loyal, honest and a bit shy, seeks female 34–42 for friendship and possible long-term relationship. I enjoy movies, antique woodworking, working out and quiet time at home. Contact humpty90@hotmail.com

Two Moms and a toddler looking to socialize with other moms and families of like minds. How about just getting out of the house for a coffee or something? Contact Dee and family at nobdysgrll@home.com

ask dr.dyke



Dear Dr. Dyke,
My girlfriend is obsessed with her hair. I can't believe how vain she is. It really makes me wonder if she's just too shallow for me. Do you think it's normal to be so concerned about your hair?

Signed, Grinchy-Poo

Dear G.P.,
Well, Dr. Dyke has missed many a womonspace dance due to a regrettable haircut, so I think you know how this reply is going to go. Some of us are, let's just say, particular, about how we look before we go out—does that make us shallow? Erm, no! Okay, and the proof is that Dr. Dyke's Save-On staff are quite familiar with a particular ratty red hat, and the folks at Tim's have even seen Dr. Dyke's jammies (let alone the bed head—and it's not pretty!). Can your grrl ever go out with less than perfect hair? Let it serve as a guide! Looking good is a sign of personal pride and self-confidence, which is healthy. Maybe your partner is just being honest enough to acknowledge that it is important. No bias here. Nope. Dr. Dyke highly recommends a book by Mary Dugger called *The History of Lesbian Hair* for better understanding. And by the way, it is perfectly normal, as well, for her to come home in tears if she has tried up to and counting 14 different hairdressers who just don't understand what a good dyke cut is!! (Even if she speaks slowly, clearly, and is very nice about it!) In the end, if your girlfriend is particular about her hair, that's probably one of the things that attracted you in the first place. Not a hair outta place? Well, everyone knows control freaks make the best lovers! So, how about a bit of patience and understanding? "Did you lose a bet, or what!?" is never going to pass for support when you talk about her hair!!

Dear Dr. Dyke,
My girlfriend watches far too much sports on tv. It is seriously cutting in to our quality time. I find sports really boring. Maybe we're not the right match? I'd leave her today, except the sex is too amazing and we connect on all other levels. Any tips?

Signed, Cindy-Lou

Dear C.L.,
Whether it's sports, Playstation, or her Sarah Michelle Gellar scrapbook, you have to allow time for her personal interests, or you'll drive her away. And not just allow time—don't mock or resent either! You don't need to share every interest, and in fact, diverse interests make the couple stronger. I'm guessing that any sports is too much sports for you, but if you really never see her, well, that's a problem. But there are benefits to having a sports grrl! For example, it makes it easy to shop for presents—tickets to games, jerseys of favorite teams, autographed this or that, right up to those cool chairs that have a fridge built in to the armrests!▼

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2 You support a great community group, and get cool discounts for dances, and other activities.

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